



Lunenburg Public Schools

Dr. Kate Burnham, Superintendent of Schools

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 7, 2025
LHMS Collaborative Room #D132
6:30 – Hybrid

School Committee

Brian Lehtinen, Chair - Present
Anthony Sculimbrenne, Vice Chair - Present
Carol Archambault, Secretary - Present
Peter Beardmore, Member - Present
Laura Brzozoski, Member - Present

Superintendent

Dr. Kate Burnham

Recording Secretary

Courtney Fuller

Guests: Dr. Susan Gilson – Director of Administration and Finance, Dr. Deborah Bookis – Director of Teaching and Learning

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, please be advised that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast live over the Lunenburg Public Access channel, on Facebook Live on the Public Access Facebook page.

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The agenda lists all the topics which may be discussed at the meeting and those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Votes may be taken as a result of these discussions. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by Open Meeting Law

1. Call to Order by Mr. Lehtinen at 6:31

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- 3. Recognition & Farewell to Outgoing Committee Members** Mr. Lehtinen reports Mr. Beardmore will not be returning, he brought a sharp mind and strategic lens to our work on the school committee, his financial expertise and deep understanding of systems made him an invaluable resource especially in times when we needed to make tough long- term decisions. Peter always had ideas worth hearing and opinions worth considering. He never hesitated to speak up even when it wasn't easy or popular. Sometimes his candor came across a little strong but it always came from a place of passion for doing what is right for students and taxpayers. His honesty and drive to improve things and his commitment to transparency have shaped many of the conversations and decisions we have had at the table. Peter's decision to step away to spend more time with his family speaks volumes about his priorities and I know I speak for many when I say we wish him all the best. His contributions to this committee will have a long lasting impact and his voice will certainly be missed, but knowing his voice will continue to be heard from the public comment mic. Ms. Archambault was already a dedicated member of the school committee when I first joined and from the beginning she set an example of thoughtful student centered leadership. Carol has always brought a caring grounded perspective to our work especially when it comes to advocating for our youngest learners. She often saw angles I hadn't considered and was always willing to dig in to help and do the work that often goes unseen, but is so critical. I have learned a great deal from Carol, not only about educational policy, finance, and governance, but how to lead with kindness and clarity. I

am genuinely a better committee member and a chair because of the time I have spent working alongside her. Her voice will be missed and her impact will be lasting.

Mr. Sculimbrene Peter I think all the things Brian said are true, but I also think that the thing that makes it so enjoyable to be on a committee with you is that you have a really good nature, you know that you are going to say things sometimes that inflame people's passions and you are fine doing that. The thing that makes you different then so many people is that you do this regularly, is you can take it when they do it back and that is truly a great person to have in your corner. I have often asked you questions and I have often sought your advice but really I think it is fun to know you, no one else can handle the things you can handle. Brian I have been stunned at how good you are at executing on every part of the job. You get everyone involved, you answer every email, you provide thoughtful responses every time and I know that bodes well for your future. I wish you all the luck. Carol, I have enjoyed learning from you and listening to you. I have taken to heart what you said the first time I met you which is are you willing to speak for the trees. I am happy to have known you and I will continue to speak for the trees. I am also going to say you are one of the wisest people I have ever met, you know what the right answer is just by thinking about it being reflective and being kind. I hope to be more like that as I get older I still feel sometimes I rush to judgement and I am impulsive as I was when I declared I did not want to be involved with the superintendent search. I am so grateful that you are gracious and kind, you share your wisdom with everyone here.

Ms. Archambault When I was told Peter was going to jump from Fincom to the school committee I said "How is he going to do that?" I thought he was going to do both so I spent all this time trying to trap him into saying "I can't do both" when he said "I'm not going to do both" I have been delighted to work with you, you always have a fresh way of looking at things and when I don't know what government person to talk to I ask you, because you know all those inner workings. Brian, I have been continually amazed at how you juggle this job with your three young boys and coaching at school all at the same time. I have enough trouble this job and I am retired with my husband at home, with no cats or dogs! You do what you say you are going to do, everything gets done in a timely manner and I thank you very much for taking the chair this year, so I could take this last year and not do all that stuff.

Mr. Beardmore Wow, thank you. I have been thinking a lot over the last several weeks about the last six years of my public service, but the last three years in particular, and thinking back to my appointment. I think I had a lot of people wondering what that meant, but I outlined four things that I really wanted to focus on, student achievement, facilities budget, public engagement, and communication and I have been thinking about if I were to grade those things on a rubric over the last three years where would I put us. I am reasonably a tough grader I think, but in totality I give myself the "Ralphie Essay" a C+ and I probably shot my eye out more than once over the course of the last three years and that is just being honest. I think there is a lot of work here to do and I am very proud of what we have accomplished. I am most proud of the dialogue that we have built as a committee amongst ourselves, but also with the broader Lunenburg government and the public, which is something that existed nearly to this degree three years ago as it does today. I am most proud of that. Carol and Brian, first of all thank you for being excellent chair people of this committee. I am a lot to deal with sometimes and you both know particularly when I lock on to something that I can't let go of. I know that is hard to deal with and keep the train running in a reasonable straight line, I think you both did that with extraordinary grace and attention, you both did a fantastic job and I am honored to call every member of this committee friends. It is going to be hard not doing this moving forward and not be part of this committee. I also want to thank Dr. Burnham and the entire administrative team and faculty, your time, attention, and responsiveness has been excellent. We have not always agreed, as you knew when I showed up that would be the case, but the way we have worked together and worked through some extraordinarily challenging issues and times has been truly and honor to learn from you and to

work with all of you. I greatly appreciated that. To the members of the public, thank you for putting me here for a few years and I look forward to returning to your ranks and we will see what happens next.

Ms. Brzozoski I want to thank you all for so many years of service and for showing me the ropes. I have only been on for two years. Carol when you were the chair you were scary and sweet, I think people underestimate and forget you are a grandma, very sweet and kind, but you have a backbone of steel, you used to be a teacher and you will stand up and fight passionately for the students here and I loved that. Brian you have been fantastic, the way you communicate, I like getting emails and seeing your responses to the community members as our spokesperson, because they are always so well written. I mean you are a math teacher, not an English teacher, your English skills are great. Peter, I love when you agree with me, but when you don't it is a little scary how passionate you can get. You have definitely shown me how important it is when you are in a small town and disagree with someone you can do it in a kind emphatic way. There is a way to do it and still maintain relationships that is one of your strengths.

Mr. Lehtinen shares himself and Peter will continue to serve in the future, however, has invited delegation here tonight to honor Carol. Representative Scarsdale.

Representative Scarsdale states it is truly an honor to be here tonight and certainly I am glad I was able to be here early and catch the comments. The conversation between all of you and how you interact and respect you have for each other is amazing. Lunenburg is lucky to have you. Peter I would not give you a C+, I would give you an A+ for your passion and your dedication to such important issues such as education and funding around it. It has been an honor to work with you too Brian. I am glad you are continuing your service to the community. Carol, you are very kind and you present in a soft and gentle way, but you do have a backbone of steel. I remember when I first met you and I was running for state representative the first time. Lunenburg was new to the Middlesex, because of redistricting, and I remember how patient you were, and while I understood issues with Chapter 70, you helped me see it in a whole new light, your patience and depth of knowledge, your willingness to think outside the box and how can we solve this. I was in awe of you when I first met you and that never changed for a single moment. I am still in awe of you. The delegation wishes you the best, Senator Cronin and Rep Kushmerek had other engagements tonight. Senator Cronin is at the state house fighting for the House budget on the Senate side, which hopefully will be good news for all of us, but they did send me with citation, honestly they are similar to mine. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the House of Representatives and Senate, be it hereby known to all that we offer our sincerest congratulations to Carol Archambault. In recognition of your 7 years of indefatigable commitment and dedication to the Lunenburg Public Schools, specifically to the Lunenburg School Committee. The entire membership of both chambers extends its very best wishes and expresses the hope for future good fortune and continued success in all endeavors given this seventh day of May at the State House Boston Massachusetts, signed by Speaker of the House, Ronald Mariano, Senate President, Karen Spilka, State Representative Michael Kushmerek, Margaret Scarsdale and State Senator John Cronin. Carol I don't think you will have a typical grandmother's retirement, I fully expect to see you out and about on the streets and continuing to lead with your heart and your beauty we wish you all the very best.

Tatum Furman, Student Rep This is for everyone, for a 17 year old, I don't zone out at these meetings as much as you think I would. I have learned a lot for you all, how to hold my ground, how to express my opinion and how to speak publicly. It has been very beneficial to me in life, these meetings actually part of what made me want to go into Political Journalism after high school. You affect students more than you know, but for me personally this has been a big part of my life for the past 2 years.

Dr. Burnham I wanted to echo all of the comments that have been made. I don't think I have much more that can be added, I think everyone covered all that ground pretty well. I have been extraordinarily lucky to have worked with a consistent board for as many years. I think it is fantastic that you are five unique individuals and you all bring talents to the work, it makes for a better stronger board. While three of you are exiting soon, I will be exiting as well, so I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you, it has been a pleasure to work with you and I think we have done a lot of work together, we navigated COVID, several of us Post-Covid and have had some very difficult budgets. Thank you for your partnership, encouragement, and your support is much appreciated. Carol is known for the Lorax, those of you who have been to a graduation or tow may know I am known for the turtle. I would like to say this quote, it is an anonymous quote, "behold the turtle for him to make progress he must stick his neck out" every single one of you, by taking on this role and engaging in every single meeting, you are sticking your neck out, sometimes that can feel dangerous, but that is how we make progress. I think we have made progress, thank you for your service, thank you for sticking your neck out and thank you for all the progress we have made for the children of Lunenburg. You are greatly appreciated by everyone in the school district.

Ms. Archambault I want to thank everybody, the 7 1/3 years that I have been sitting here has been extraordinarily interesting, I have learned so much about town government. I have learned that you have a voice, so many people do not realize, you all have a voice and you need to use it. I wish to thank my committee members who have nothing but the very best in their hearts for the students of Lunenburg. Whether it was my first committee I sat with all the way through, everybody just wants what is best for our kids collectively. When I came to this committee I was hoping my goal was to make some curriculum changes and I cannot thank Dr. Burnham enough for the curriculum changes that she oversaw and the growth in our district as well as the staff, the teaching and learning department, the students who work so very hard, everybody worked hard together to make those changes. I also wish to thank people for their friendship, or people I didn't know, like Liz, she is delightful and knows everything about everything and I can't thank you enough because every time I text her with something she says of course I will do that, and she does. It has been quite an experience and I wouldn't change it.

John Bowen Jr. I want to say to the committee members who are leaving and who have serviced this town, thank you for your service. Mr. Beardmore, Ms. Archambault thank you for your service on this committee.

4. Public Comment Justin Repucci 1147 Mass Ave I am going to respectfully ask the school committee to consider how the new bus fee policy applies in cases where walking to school is unsafe. We live within the 2 mile range, but we are on a busy state road with no sidewalks. Walking is not a safe or a realistic option, I understand the goal of the policy is that distance is used as a fair metric, but assumes walking is a viable option, in some cases it is not. I am not here to ask for special treatment based on finances or convenience, I am asking for a process that accounts for safety and road conditions when determining who pays for the bus fee. I'd like to ask the committee to consider a safety exemption or review this process so families like mine aren't penalized for this circumstance.

Jane Hall 73 Pine Grove Road I wanted to compliment the school committee on the process that you have followed as you lead up to tonight, hopefully appointing or making a decision about who you are going to appoint for the next superintendent of schools. I was a little nervous when there was a little hiatus and the timing, but I think you did yeoman's work over the last two months. I wish you all luck tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the screening committee and attending the meetings was very informative. You have four very qualified candidates, and I don't envy you tonight. The only think I hope is that you are thinking about how you make the decision that is based on what are the needs of the district and the town, because, sometimes we can be very

influenced on the type of person I might like to work with. This is much bigger than that as you all know, so I wish you luck and I am happy to be here to hear the deliberations that take place.

John Bowen Jr. 162 Highland Street I have been the only student to show up at all of the superintendent candidate meetings for students. I take that I will be the voice of students along with my friend Tatum. In my comments to each candidate I mentioned history about Frederick Douglas, who was a US Marshall appointed by President Hayes, both of whom were against Jim Crow laws, particularly Marshall Douglas who was an abolitionist, however, they both upheld and followed the law of the land. In that discussion I inquired about how critical race theory applies to public education. Mr. Conway stated that he doesn't believe CRT is being directly taught in school. Ms. Fortuna was directly quoted from the MASC position statement for K -2 curriculum and critical race theory, she said "We do not teach CRT but we do have a fundamental and moral responsibility to teach history and social science and in all its truth, the pleasant and the unpleasant" That is word for word in the last paragraph of the position statement. Mr. McCormack stated that he does not believe CRT is being taught at all. Ms. Menard does not agree with CRT but says she will teach standards set by the MASC and DESE. Focus indicators that were put out by the Massachusetts DOE in the 24/25 school year is online and it identifies ways to incorporate CRT teaching indirectly by using a set of semantics in teaching. This is hiding the fact that it is being taught. I also inquired about teachers expressing their own free speech in their classrooms. I mentioned a particular history classroom that is overloaded with one side of history and culture. The teacher does not promote an equal and fair representation of history throughout the classroom, because she is specifically overloading her classroom with imagery and slogans and flags of this one specific social science. I believe that is a teacher expressing her own free speech and expression in the classroom and influencing students based on a personal agenda. Mr. Conway stated he does not agree with teachers promoting their own free speech and expression within the classroom, he stated if it is being taught in a block regarding a specific historical or social science unit then it is acceptable, but the classroom should be balanced. Ms. Fortuna gave me a word salad of avoidance on the issue of free speech. Mr. McCormack stated he is unaware of teachers promoting their own free speech in classrooms but he believes that it is ok and should be allowed. Ms. Menard also stated that she is okay with allowing teachers to exercise their own free speech and expression in the classroom. In summary, students want a superintendent that leads and takes charge, not someone who is afraid of back and forth conversations or avoids difficult questions. I strongly recommend you select Brent Conway as the next superintendent of schools. He did not avoid answering my difficult questions, he was short answered, straightforward, direct, clear, and concise. Mr. Sculimbrene he did the same thing with you, the law you raised during your interview with Mr. Conway. He will tell you how it is even if it is uncomfortable. That is a leader and the person who should be leading our district education

John Bowen I want to thank everybody for your time that you spent. It is a long time and arduous, you guys were slave drivers last year and it was very difficult so I don't envy anybody here on this board for the job and duty that you have particularly this year with multiple cuts. I don't envy the superintendent who will be walking into this disaster, it is a financial disaster, an educational disaster, and a district disaster. There are buildings that have problems, there are educational direction that is lacking in teaching because of teachers classroom size is changing. You guys are all in trouble and you are not going to make this community happy at all with any decision you make. I tell you what will make me happy – just as long as you do your job. I support my son in his direction I watched all the meetings and I think that Brent Conway is a direct, concise, short answered and someone that is not going to hand us a bunch of language, but going to say "here is the deal". In the exchange of the law that Mr. Sculimbrene was having back and forth with him, I understand Mr. Sculimbrene being an attorney, he doesn't like to give up a fight or an argument. A lawyer will not ask a question he doesn't know the answer to and he wanted a specific answer, but what Brent did in the exchange is he clarified, I have no read in detail, I have no idea, I cannot do that, but I would be

*1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
978 582-4100 ~ fax 978 582-4103*

glad to discuss it with you at a later date. I would like to know, did you guys' discuss that later on and get an answer to that legal question that you had gone through?

Mr. Sculimbrene In response to Mr. Bowen's question, after he clarified there is a case pending in the first circuit about the cheerleader scenario, but applied to student conduct as opposed to the conduct or the running of a club. So the first circuit has yet to rule on it. Basically, the gist was he was focused on that case and missed the word group in the questions. I agree with you, I though he gave it a good answer.

Peter Beardmore I would like to comment on the discussion last night that occurred at the select board meeting pertaining to the discussion around the special election. To complete the override process prior to last night's interview, Laura and I spoke at public comment. Select board meeting, the gist of my public comment was that I think there is going to be additional public outcry to make this happen. Town meeting appropriated the money, the same body that appropriates an omnibus budget. Town meeting appropriated that money, subject to the passage of an override vote. While the select board pays regular lip service to the votes at town meeting, for some reason this particular vote did not meet their muster for affecting their decision to put this on a ballot. I say this, having been part of the process where we as a committee came forward and agreed that the less bad course of action once again was probably to do this as a town override. But there is a process and the public is included in the process. There was a citizen petition, and lo and behold that citizen petition held the day on Saturday and those who chose to come to town meeting and to vote, voted for it. An appropriation that has been made, but there is no revenue to support that appropriation because the public is not being given the opportunity to vote to approve that revenue. That is the mechanics of the situation that we have right now. The situation is different from the one that existed 2 months ago, when we met with the select board. In deliberations last night, the select board ignored that reality. I think to a certain degree it serves them to make dispersion of the school committee and the school budget when frankly our budget has been scrutinized ten times more than any other department in Lunenburg. There have been discussions around the forecasting and the long term projections of the costs associated with running the school department to a much greater degree than any other department in town. There is a blocking mechanism that two of the three members that voted against or spoke against this last night used a year ago in opposing the override. Here we sit, nothing has been done, one of those members is leaving and I don't know what to make of it. I am exasperated by a board that claims to represent the will of the people of Lunenburg, but will not put it to a vote. I still believe that this is going to happen, it is just a matter of how long we are prolonging the agony. I think there is going to be a special election, the question is, how long the select board is going to prolong this agony and the longer it takes the more disruptive it will be to the school department operations over the course of the summer and fall.

Ms. Brzozoski I would like to echo what Peter said. I also made a public comment not knowing that Peter was coming in hot too. What I asked for was for the select board to choose either –act immediately on bringing an override for FY26 as a compromise if they are not inclined to take action now then to start work toward an FY27 override at special town meeting in November. This way everyone knows what money is coming in when we are doing our budgets. Making 10 budgets is incredibly difficult and it wastes a lot of resources. My main reason is because of what we are doing to our staff, when we prolong this agony. June 30th we have a significant number of staff being laid off, we are going to pay out unemployment, and they are going to hopefully and very likely end up finding employment in other districts. These are quality teachers we are losing and it hurts every time we do this, it damages morale in the school system, it stresses out our staff. We are not good employers, it is very upsetting what we are doing to our staff, and this is not good stewardship. If we wait until next spring for yet another budget season like this, that will be three years in a row that we have put Lunenburg school district staff through this and this is not okay. I am having a difficult time with the fact that the select board is not understanding what this is doing

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to our staff. I don't know how to make them understand. I don't know how to make them care. I am very frustrated, and then to hear them, last night disparage the school committee and our stewardship of what is happening. I need leadership and I need forward movement. This is me speaking as a citizen, I am upset that we are not being given a vote on something that we voted at a town meeting. I feel like our voice is being taken away, I understand they have the legal ability and the right to not put it on the ballot if they feel it is not appropriate, but it is frustrating to have sat through town meeting, voted, did the work and then to be told "sorry it only won by two votes that's not good enough, that doesn't count" But then to hear Mr. Jeffries say the town hall vote only failed by 5%, he phrased it as six votes, so if it passes at the ballot they will try again at special town meeting. So wins aren't really wins and losses aren't really losses, it is whatever the select board decides. I know that is inflammatory, but I am very frustrated, so I am going to be agitating for an override at special town meeting and FY27 override at November town meeting. If I have to do a citizens petition, not as a school committee member, then that is what I will do, because I can't speak for the members of the committee, and I don't know what the new members coming in will want, but I will keep pushing.

Mr. Lehtinen I want to thank Dr. Burnham for her outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the Lunenburg public schools as she prepares for retirement this June. I am filled with admiration and gratitude for the impact she has made on our district. Dr. Burnham has led with clarity, care, and unwavering focus on what is best for students. Her steady leadership helped navigate complex challenges, supported meaningful growth, and built a foundation that will serve Lunenburg well into the future. Whether guiding instructional improvements, prioritizing students' well-being, or strengthening our community partnerships, her legacy is one of thoughtful student centered progress. I have appreciated Dr. Burnham's collaborative spirit and her ability to bring people together with a sense of purpose and professionalism. It has been an honor to work alongside her. Thank you Dr. Burnham for your years of service and leadership and your heart you have brought to Lunenburg. I wish you a joyful and fulfilling retirement, you have certainly earned it.

5. **Chair's Report** This Friday is Are you Smarter Than a 6th Grader at the high school at 7 p. doors open at 6:30, this is a fundraiser for the club and you can come watch the school committee beat the select board. The Lunenburg Business Association is having their vendor fair on May 10th from 11-6 at TC Passios, this is a family friendly event. The classic cruise night is at TCP on May 21st from 4-8, this is a free event, and they will have music, food, games, prizes and fun for all. The state budget process with a vote of 140 -14, the House passed H410 an act making appropriations for certain other activities and projects as part of a statewide priority for high quality education, \$353 million was allocated for educational related investments and is a direct result of the work of project 211. The following provisions were included, a full 100% reimbursement for FY25 regional school transportations up from 80%, 75% reimbursement for FY25 out of district special education transportation costs through the circuit breaker program increased from 44%, 75% reimbursement for FY26 out of district special education transportation costs, a directive for the Office of Inspector General to review school transportation and provide recommendations by February 2, 2026 to reduce costs, enhance purchasing power and streamline services. There was also \$483.2 million for circuit breaker special education reimbursements, there were local earmarks secured of \$40,000 for security system upgrades in Lunenburg Public Schools. The budget also continues to fully fund universal free lunch meals and invests \$1667 billion in early education care. The House budget passed including 150 per pupil minimum aid increase. Additional circuit breaker funding of \$190 million, \$120,000 in direct earmarks for Lunenburg public schools. The Senate ways and means committee has released the FY26 budget on their side, unfortunately does not include language to establish chapter 70 commission that we have been advocating for, so we can continue to push for this as an amendment. The support of the public as well is critical to our success. You can contact Senator

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Cronin and urge him to file a budget amendment incorporating the language of Senator Lewis's Senate bill S400 which is proposing the commission to recommend changes to the funding formula, there will be a hearing on May 9th at 2 pm. On May 12th you can testify in person or virtually on education's hearing on Senator Lewis's bill, you can also submit written testimony. The senate will debate FY26 amendments the week of May 19, 2025, which is after the hearing.

- 6. Student Representative Report** There is no school on 5/26/25 in honor of Memorial Day. On 5/29/25 the first graders will be going to the zoo and Primary School will hold field day on 6/12. At Turkey Hill the fourth and fifth graders will be taking the MCAS test and their field trip is on June 11th. The Middle High School, athletics are in full swing. Student council elections were last week and votes were announced on Friday. The middle school had their Glow Dance on Friday, my friend sister went and said she had a lot of fun. The sixth grade will visit the Museum of Science and 8th grade will be going to DC. The seniors are wrapping up their year, participating in motorcade, senior breakfast and graduation fast approaching. May 16th is the last day to order the high school yearbooks. The 2026 Greece trip for next April is filling up fast. May 17 -30 there will be an honors and AP art thesis show, I have a piece in that, so check it out, it will be fun. National Honor Society is offering peer tutoring on Tuesdays. The Junior Senior prom is coming up on May 17th.

- 7. Review & Approve Minutes-** none

- 8. Review & Approve Warrants, Line Item Transfers & Donations**

a. Warrants 4/16/25 – 4/30/25 \$182,608.62

b. Line Item Transfers A request to transfer \$16,063.77 and \$7,136.41 from the Elementary Guidance salary due to a resignation and partial unfilled maintenance to substitute lines. A request to transfer \$1000 from fire safety furniture line to vehicle maintenance. A request of \$12,332.80 to go to contracted services from general supply line of \$6,370.01 and \$5,962.79 from another general supplies. A request to rectify salary lines move \$1,500 from business manager, \$1,500 from human resource director, \$53,493 from salary reserve line to Business Office, Assistance Secretary. **Ms. Brzozoski makes a motion to approve, Mr.**

Sculimbrene seconds the motion all approve

c. Donations from the Madigan Family for \$1,500 to continue the Richard Stachowicz Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior in the class of 2026. A donation of \$35.50 from Box Tops which will be deposited into the gift account at Turkey Hill **Mr. Sculimbrene makes a motion to accept donations with gratitude, Ms. Brzozoski seconds the motion all approve**

- 9. Superintendents Report**

Upcoming Dates

5/21 School Committee meeting hybrid from LMHS

5/26 Schools and Offices Closed – Memorial Day

6/4 School Committee Meeting hybrid – prior to meeting will be a celebration for retirees, Karyn Giuliani from the Art Department at the high school, Peggy Proctor from World Language at the high school, and Bob Hill from the Science Department at the high school

10. Old Business

Action

- a. **Superintendent Search Deliberation and Action** Mr. Sculimbrene makes a motion to open the discussion of superintendent candidacy, a candidate needs three affirmative votes, Ms. Archambault seconds the motion, all approve

Ms. Brzozoski first choice Jodi, second choice Brent

Mr. Beardmore first choice Jodi, second choice Joanne

Ms. Archambault first choice Brent second choice Jodi

Mr. Sculimbrene first choice Jodi second choice Brent/Joanne

Mr. Lehtinen first choice Jodi second choice Joanne

After a discussion amongst the committee they then choose their first choice

Ms. Brzozoski – Jodi, Mr. Beardmore – Jodi, Ms. Archambault Brent, Mr. Sculimbrene – Jodi, Mr. Lehtinen

With four votes for Jodi she is voted to be the next superintendent of schools pending negotiations, Mr. Lehtinen calls her and she accepts.

- b. **Override Ballot Impact** The select board has met and decided they will not be putting the override on for a special election, there was no official vote they need 2/3 of vote to get it on the ballot.
- c. **Student Activity Fee Structure** Dr. Gilson discusses some options for an increase and the committee ultimately decides for a universal increase from \$55 to \$70 **Mr. Sculimbrene makes a motion to approve the increase to \$70, Mr. Beardmore seconds the motion, all approve**
- d. **THES ADA Study Final Report** the committee has the final report in their folder, **Ms. Brzozoski makes a motion to accept the report, Mr. Beardmore seconds the motion all approve**
- e. **Facility and Grounds Report** the committee has a report in their folder. **Ms. Brzozoski makes a motion to accept the report, Mr. Beardmore seconds the report, all approve.**
- f. **Paraprofessional Contract Ratification** a brief summary status is given by Mr. Beardmore, about a year ago a contract was agreed upon for one year with the Para's. We have gone back and made some changes, a raise in pay, they will now be on a salary plan opposed to an hourly pay plan, 26 week pay period and all benefits of a contracted employee vs an hourly employee, moved away from some stipends and it will all be absorbed into the contract and all money goes toward retirement. **Ms. Archambault makes a motion to accept the agreement, Ms. Brzozoski seconds the motion all approve**
- g. **Third Read Policies 3601.3 Bus Fee Policy, 1303.1 Advertising in Schools** the bus policy needs to go back to the subcommittee for an adjustment in language. Mr. Beardmore reads 1303.1 advertising policy out loud **Ms. Brzozoski makes a motion to approve policy 1303.1 as read, Mr. Beardmore seconds the motion, all approve.**

11. New Business

Action

- a. **Class of 2023 Account** Ms. Walker and Mr. Koziol discussed the wishes of the class of 2023. The class has a balance of \$4,644.36 and would like to donate it to the annual secretary's gift card drive. **Mr. Beardmore makes a motion to accept the donation of**

\$4,644.36 to be earmarked for the Annual Secretary's gift card drive, Ms. Brzozoski seconds the motion all approve

- b. Grant Submission Approvals** the committee has been provided the memo's in their packet from Dr. Bookis and Ms. Hanscom. **Ms. Brzozoski makes a motion to accept the submission of grants, Mr. Beardmore seconds the motion all approve**
- c. Budget Task Force Charge** the chair of the select board wants the committee to review the budget task force charge, there is interest in the task force starting up again. Mr. Lehtinen recommends adding "develop and present at least 3 numerical scenarios" **Mr. Sculimbrene makes a motion to table this until next meeting, Mr. Lehtinen seconds the motion all approve**

Discussion

- d. Master Planning Committee** Ms. Archambault reports they met, as previously they couldn't get a quorum. The committee decides they will go through the list and will send their priority list to Dr. Burnham and Ms. Archambault

12. Reports Ms. **Brzozoski** Come see me at the vendor fair Saturday I have 300th Lunenburg anniversary stickers, which will be in 2028. LEAF met and welcomed new members, they are still waiting for their 501 C3 status to be approved. The wellness committee met and will be doing survey of student behavior, and I am excited to see the results.

Mr. Beardmore the High School advisory met on 4/27 had a budget discussion and the effects on the high school and how the class registration process is delayed because of this. We also discussed the student activity fee, and end of year calendar.

Ms. Archambault Middle School advisory met on 4/26 and discussed MCAS schedule, handbook, approved minor changes, discussed the DC trip which will be going via bus this year.

Mr. Sculimbrene The PTO met on Monday night, cruise event with Lions club, met with some of the people bringing cars. They are wondering what will happen to their room at TCP when the staff move out of the building. Dr. Burnham does not have any authority over whether any space after they move from the building. They should reach out to the town manager

Mr. Lehtinen LMBDC met before town meeting, the plan did not pass, but will still be on the ballot for a town vote

13. Public Comment Dave Passios I got a chance to hear some of the members comments regarding the budget task force. Last night I made some very marked comments relative to the challenge that had tasked the select board with last year. Shortly after elections, my comment to them was, you need to get over your issues and you need to bring the town out of the hole, you need to lead this town, the executive branch is the branch that needs to deal with budgetary problems and passing it off to a committee that is then going to have to go back to paid employees and department heads to get information, digest it, and then spit it back again at the select board and executive branch is a waste of time. I told them it is their responsibility to run the town and use every resource available to them.

Ms. Brzozoski I would like to welcome our incoming superintendent I am very excited and this was a big decision. Thank you for everything Dr. Burnham you have been our measuring stick, you are going to be really hard to replace. I think there are a lot of things that you do that we don't even know about, because you make it look effortless.

Mr. Beardmore I want to repeat all of the thank yous. I am so excited we are on the cusp of finishing the AC project at the Primary School, it has been a long road and we may have everything we need procedurally. I am proud of the stick-to-itiveness of our administration and this committee to make sure that project happens.

Ms. Archambault Thank you PAC for everything they do and John for being everywhere when needed. The people in this community are so much better informed because of what you do.

*1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
978 582-4100 ~ fax 978 582-4103*

Mr. Lehtinen Thank you to my wife and children, if you are up –Go to bed!

14. Topics for Future Discussion

Dr. Burnham is working on the State of the Schools report

15. Adjournment Mr. Sculimbrene makes a motion to enter executive session and adjourn immediately after at 9:58 pm, Ms. Archambault seconds the motion, motion approved via roll call vote

16. Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel

Respectfully Submitted

Courtney Fuller